

SCHOOL LAND.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA,

RELATIVE TO

*The application of certain lands, granted for internal improvements, to educational purposes, &c.*

MARCH 22, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

JOINT MEMORIAL of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, to the Congress of the United States.

Your memorialists would respectfully represent, that the grant in the act of Congress "to enable the people of the Alabama Territory to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of such State into the Union," of section numbered sixteen in every township, to the inhabitants of such township, for the use of schools, has utterly failed to accomplish the noble object it had in view; a very large majority of the said sections are barren and worthless, and surrounded by lands of a similar quality, which are owned by the poor class of men, who are most in need of the advantages and aid contemplated by the grant. Under the act of Congress approved the 4th September, 1841, and entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands and to grant pre-emption rights," the State of Alabama is entitled to one hundred thousand acres of land belonging to the United States, within the limits of said State. Your memorialists, the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, would respectfully ask of the Congress of the United States to pass an act, *directing* the proceeds that may arise from a sale of the said land to be applied to the valueless sixteenth sections for the use of schools, instead of the *internal improvements*, as is now provided, and authorizing a location of the same, in parcels as small as forty acres, upon any public land belonging to the United States in any State or Territory, excepting such as is or may be reserved from sale by any law of Congress, or proclamation of the President of the United States. The public lands within this State, yet unsold, are of but little value, and an act of Congress to the effect proposed in the memorial would but place Alabama upon a just and fair equality with the States which have received five hundred thousand acres of good land, and in some degree accomplish the great design of the act granting "section numbered sixteen in every

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township to the inhabitants of such township, for the use of schools." Without some such act of Congress, a very large number of children within Alabama must go uneducated, for want of the necessary advantages. If, however, in the selection of the one hundred thousand acres of land, to which Alabama is entitled, she be *confined* to public lands within her limits, we respectfully ask of Congress to pass an act directing that the proceeds be applied to the valueless sixteenth sections, and authorizing a location in parcels as small as forty acres, and a sale thereof at a less price than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, if deemed by the legislature of Alabama advisable: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to carry out the views contained in the foregoing memorial; and that his excellency the governor cause copies of this memorial to be forwarded to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.*

L. P. WALKER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JOHN A. WINSTON,

*President of the Senate.*